New scheme to boost tourism

2134. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government are formulating a new scheme to give boost to the tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Governments have also been consulted for this;

(d) if so, what is their reaction; and

(e) by when the new scheme for tourism is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OFTOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) In order to give boost to tourism, the Department of Tourism, Govt, of India has formulated the following schemes for the integrated development of infrastructure facilities and promotion of tourism in the country during the Tenth Five Year Plan:

(i) Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits.

(ii) Product/Infrastructure and Destination Development.

(iii) Assistance for Large Revenue Generating Projects.

(iv) Capacity Building for Service Providers.

(c) and (d) These schemes have been introduced based on the past experiences of the State Governments in implementation of the tourism infrastructure projects under the Central Financial Assistance Schemes. These schemes have been formulated in consultation with the Planning Commission.

(e) These schemes have already been formulated and are under implementation.

Increase of tourists in Kerala

2135. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kerala had an admirable growth rate of 11.37 per cent in international tourist arrivals in 2002 which is the highest recorded growth in past five years and there has also been increase in domestic tourists as well;

(b) if so, the comparative figures for the last three years;

(c) whether keeping natural flora and fauna in view the Prime Minister during his stay in the State has laid emphasis to develop tourism industry in Kerala; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken by Central Government in collaboration with State administration in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the State Government, the foreign and domestic tourist visits in the State of Kerala alongwith the percentage change during the last three years are as follows:

Year	Foreign tourist visits	Percentage change	Domestic tourist visits	Percentage change
2000	209933	3.84 -	5013221	2.56
2001	208830	0.53	5239692	4.52
2002	232564	11.37	5568256	6.27

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Department of Tourism, Government of India in consultation with the State Government has identified Backwater and Beach Circuit covering Cochin-Kumarakom-(Backwater)-Kottayam-Quilon-Trivandrum (Kovalam) for integrated development. During the year 2002-03, an amount of Rs. 800.36 lakhs has been sanctioned for development of the circuit as well as for Elephant Festival and National Boat Show.

Revival of Tourism Industry in J&K

2136. SHRI T.S.BAJWA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tourists who visited Jammu and Kashmir during the last three years alongwith the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom; and

(b) the details of Government's proposals to revive the ailing Tourism Industry in the State during the Tenth Five Year Plan?